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GOVERNOR DETAILS PLAN FOR ARIZONA'S FUTURE, ORDERS ACTION ***Napolitano Delivers State of the State Address***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today laid out a clear plan for Arizona's future and took immediate action toward reaching the goals she identified for the state.

In her State of the State address, delivered on the floor of the Arizona House of Representatives, the Governor further defined her vision for "One Arizona," calling the state of Arizona "strong," and adding, "I believe this independent, confident, growing state of ours can be even stronger still."

With a theme of innovation in light of Arizona's explosive growth – in terms of population and economy – the Governor described three key areas that she believes will determine the state's success:

- **Education:** to guarantee that Arizona students graduate prepared for a 21st century economy, and world of competition and innovation.
- **Foundation:** careful, coordinated management of growth including transportation systems, water, air quality, housing, health care and the environment.
- **Innovation:** the Governor emphasized that, as Arizona grows, we "need to cultivate and stimulate new technologies, new markets, and new approaches to the way we will grow and change."

Governor Napolitano added that later this week she will deliver a balanced budget proposal to the state legislature, and that her plans are all achievable within budget limits. She said clearly that her plans involve no new taxes or tax increases and that her budget keeps the state's savings account, known as the "rainy day fund," intact.

The Governor called education "the heart" of her plan. She identified a comprehensive agenda for education in Arizona that includes:

- A plan for child health care so that every student can enter school safe, healthy and ready to learn.
- A goal that by third grade, every child is reading at grade level.
- That every eighth grader is fully prepared to be able to take and pass algebra.
- And that all high school seniors are truly prepared to continue on to specific training or college study, and are ready for jobs in the modern Arizona economy.

The Governor also called for increased teacher pay and training, modernized school buildings, testing reform, and more. She said, "Our schools will be exciting, and driven by a new ethic of discovery and curiosity. They will be led by teachers who are highly regarded and well compensated, and they will produce graduates that will thrive in an economy where creativity, ingenuity, and adaptation are the rules of the game."

In the “Foundation” portion of her remarks, the Governor spoke of the “time tax” we pay whenever we’re stuck in traffic. She identified a key strategy for speeding up highway construction by extending the terms of construction financing from 20 to 30 years. Governor Napolitano added that by using this approach, “we will free up more than \$400 million above our current budget to relieve traffic congestion. I ask this legislature to support this idea and cut the time tax.”

She also offered specific plans for improving and protecting air quality, expanded water infrastructure and affordable housing, recruiting and keeping physicians, and management of public lands.

As she spoke of her plans for “Innovation,” Governor Napolitano said, “In the coming year, our job is to magnify Arizona’s innovation capacity – we’re going to lay a foundation that will increase our ability to create and lead the industries of the future.” She identified changes in support for small businesses that will allow them to take innovative ideas and move them much more quickly to market.

To back up her ideas with immediate action, the Governor issued six executive orders dealing with 21st century schools, expanding Arizona’s transportation options and exploring transportation innovation, improving air quality, improving water infrastructure, promoting comprehensive growth planning, and ensuring quality in long-term care of our seniors.

Summaries of each of the executive orders are attached. Each order outlines duties for state agencies as well as timelines for accomplishing the work.

Finally, Governor Napolitano called for continued work in areas of ongoing importance: immigration, protection from domestic violence and ensuring benefits for our military veterans.

On the subject of immigration, the Governor reiterated the need for continuing, constant pressure on the federal government. She added that because Congress has not yet achieved comprehensive reform of federal immigration law, “we can’t let up on the border initiatives we’ve begun – and that are working – in Arizona,” including Operation Jump Start.

Governor Napolitano closed her remarks by returning again to the theme of “One Arizona”:

“Today, I see that One Arizona in my mind and believe it in my heart. Like so many of you, I made the decision to come here – to this extraordinary place of innovation, opportunity and natural beauty – and to make it my home. Many more people are joining us; let’s welcome them, and be careful and smart about how we make way for them. We are stewards. This place of exceptional beauty is not ours to own, it is only ours to care for, for the time that we are here. Let’s do it well, together. It is One Arizona; it is Our Arizona.”

The full text of Governor Napolitano’s State of the State address, as well as the executive orders issued today, can be found on her Web site, www.azgovernor.gov.